

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-27, 37-42, 49-57, 64, 66-68, 70-72, 74 and 75 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 19, 37, 39, 41, 49, 52, 55, 64, 68, and 72, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, and specifically at pages 48-56 and 59-67 and Figures 16-19 and 23-39.

The title of the invention was objected to because it was not descriptive. The amended title is clearly indicative of the invention to which the pending claims are directed. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

Applicants have discovered a minor formal error in the specification, which the present amendment corrects. No new matter has been added to the specification.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-27, 37-42, 49-57, 64, 68, and 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,192,162 to Hamilton, Jr. et al. (hereinafter, merely "Hamilton").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"An image-signal processing apparatus ...

extraction means for extracting a plurality of pixels located near each pixel of interest of the input image signal;

class-determining means for determining a class from the pixels extracted by the extraction means; ...

wherein the plurality of pixels extracted by the extraction means and used by the class-determining means includes at least one pixel that is not adjacent to the pixel of interest." (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Hamilton relates to a method for edge enhancing a digital image having pixels including computing parameters for at least two orientations for each pixel in the stored digital image. Using the computed parameters to form a classifier value for each such orientation and using such classifiers to determine the pixel classification based on such classifiers. And deriving a boost value according to the determined pixel classification.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Hamilton that would disclose or suggest extracting a plurality of pixels around a pixel of interest and using the extracted pixels to classify the pixel of interest, wherein at least one pixel considered is **not** adjacent to the pixel of interest, as recited in claim 1.

Indeed, Hamilton discloses in col. 4, lin. 37 to col. 5, lin. 18 and in Figure 5 that "Fig. 5 depicts a typical 3x3 luminance pixel neighborhood." The pixel neighborhood that Hamilton uses to classify a pixel for edge-enhancement consists of pixels that are all adjacent to

the pixel of interest. The disclosure in Hamilton is distinguished from claim 1 because Hamilton discloses in Figure 6 that pixels not adjacent to the pixel of interest in the kernels, is **not** being used for classification, but **only** for generation.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Hamilton performs edge-enhancement in color images, whereas claim 1 performs a process of non-linear color-component interpolation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and Hamilton cannot be equated under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above, independent claims 10, 19, 37, 39, 41, 49, 52, 55, 64, 68, and 72 are also patentable.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 65-67, 69-71, and 73-75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hamilton in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,178 to Kondo, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Kondo”).

Applicants respectfully submit that Kondo does not provide the disclosure missing from Hamilton.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 65-67 depend from claim 64, claims 69-71 depend from claim 68, and claims 73-75 depend from claim 72, discussed above.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that owing to such dependence, claims 65-67, 69-71, and 73-75 are patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

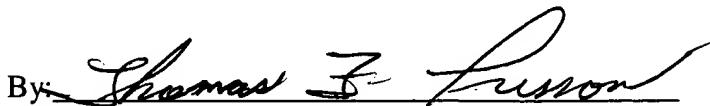
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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